Pol 14 Viets (1394)

Department of State TELEGRAM

30

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 699

Saigon 3042 2-1-70

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03042 010455Z

18
ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 UPW-01
AID-28 RSR-01 /131 W

062756

R 010330Z MAR 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7687
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL DA NANG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szanbe DATE 1/22/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 3042

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
PARIS FOR VN MISSION

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTION ON PRESIDENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTION LAW

REF: A. SAIGON A-574, DEC 1, 1969 B. SAIGON 505

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) MET IN JOINT PLENARY SESSION FEB 28 AND VOTED ON PRESIDENT THIEU'S REQUEST FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTION LAW (REFTELS).

2. PRINCIPAL ISSUE WAS QUESTION OF COMPOSITION OF ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY. NA REJECTED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST THAT PROVINCE BE DIVIDED INTO SMALL, SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES; THEREFORE THE ELECTORAL UNIT FOR THE COUNCILS WILL BE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT AS CALLED FOR IN THE NA VERSION OF THE LAW. NA ACCEPTED, HOWEVER, AN EMENDMENT GIVING THE PRIME MINISTER THE OPTION TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION DATE, SPECIFIED IN THE LAW AS APRIL 26, 1970, IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARTATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENT, THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03042 010455Z

ELECTION MUST STILL BE HELD NO LATER THAN THE END OF JUNE 1970.

3. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT AN AGENDA ITEM, THE RECENT ARREST OF LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY TRAN NGOC CHAU WAS FREQUENCTLY RAISED ON THE NA FLOOR. THIS ASPECT OF THE NA DEBATE IS REPORTED SEPTEL.
BUNKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE